MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 5 and 6, 1924.

The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1925 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6, 1924.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Medary,
Mr. Delano,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held October 3 and 4, 1924, were approved.

2. RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY: The Secretary presented the following Resolution, which was adopted:

RESOLVED,
That in view of the absence of the Secretary in Europe and the Mediterranean Countries during the period from about January 26 to April 11, 1925, he is permitted to employ a deputy at $150 a month during such period. Also that 30 days with pay shall be granted the Secretary of the period mentioned, as allowed by law.

3. PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROGRAM: The Secretary reported that the Public Buildings Commission has advised that "strong effort will be made at the forthcoming session of Congress to secure favorable action upon the Bill (S.2284), which provides for the construction of a number of Government buildings in the District of Columbia", and that it is proposed to hold Hearings as to the space needs of the establishments and Departments of the

Government; also that the Public Buildings Commission contemplates the erection of an "Independent Offices Building".

Mr. Medary stated that he was recently advised that it is contemplated to establish a Bureau of Public Works, in charge of an army engineer, under the Secretary of the Interior, and that the Commission of Fine Arts is listed among the establishments of the Government to form a part of that Bureau.

The Commission urged the importance of providing new buildings for the Government without further delay and felt that the recommendation of the President to appropriate $5,000,000 annually and begin constructing the public buildings for which plans have been prepared might be a better plan to follow than a great public buildings program which called for an enormous sum immediately.

4. MCKINLEY MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted further plans for the McKinley Manual Training High School, to be erected at Second and T Streets, N. E. The Commission approved the general scheme, but recommended a restudy of the main entrance to the building.

5. ENGINE HOUSE NO.29: Mr. Harris submitted a detailed drawing for Engine House No.29. The design was approved with the recommendation that the imposts be left out, and that instead of having a raised tablet on the front of the building, a perfectly flushed piece of stone be used. It was also thought it would improve the design to make readjustments in the mass of the tower to bring it more in harmony with the main part of the building.

6. PENNSYLVANIA STATE WAR MEMORIALS: Under date of December 2, 1924, the following letter was received from the American Battle Monuments Commission, submitting plans for four World War Memorials, to be erected by the State of

Pennsylvania in France:

> "The act creating the American Battle Monuments Commission provides that before any designs or material for memorials is accepted by the Commission, the same shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts. In accordance with this provision the attached drawings of four memorials to be erected in France by the State of Pennsylvania are referred to you for your consideration.
>
> These memorials have been officially approved by the American Battle Monuments Commission, subject to your approval of the designs and material, and with the understanding that the inscriptions to be placed on each memorials will be submitted at some later date.
>
> The Pennsylwania Commission is very anxious to let the contracts for these memorials while the state legislature is in session in January. For this reason they have requested that we act as promptly as possible in the matter."

The plans, designed by Thomas H. Atherton, Jr., and Paul P. Cret, are for monuments, as follows:

Pennsylvania State Monument at Audenarde, Belgium,
Pennsylvania State Monument at Fisme, France,
Pennsylvania State Monument at Varennes en Argorne
Pennsylvania State Monument at Nantillois Meuse.

The Commission inspected the plans and approved them heartily (Exhibit A). The Commission were greatly pleased with the fine treatment of the designs, which were promising of monuments that would be a credit to the United States.

7. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION--PROGRAM FOR THE ERECTION OF MEMORIALS IN EUROPE:

Senator David A. Reed, a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission, accompanied by Major K. H. Price, Secretary, called upon the Commission for a conference as to the program in hand by the American Battle Monuments Commission for the erection of World War memorials in Europe, concerning which they desired the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. Senator Reed submitted a Memorandum, setting forth their plans for the erection of these memorials, as follows:

1. The following works of architecture are to be erected in the American cemeteries abroad:

One chapel for each cemetery,
Walls around each cemetery.

2. The following commemorative monuments are to be erected:

Meuse--Argone operation- at Montfaucon,
St. Mihiel operation - Hattonchatel,
Aisne--Marne,operation - Chateau Thierry,
Service of Supply - Tours,
Sector occupation - Nancy.

3. Historical monuments of similar design are to be erected at the following places:

Audenarde,	Vesle River,
Ypres,	South of Soissons
Bony	Somme Py
LeCatelet,	Between Consenvoye and Wavrille,
Amiens,	Southeast of Reims ,
Juvigny	South of Sedan

4. Bronze tablets are to be erected at the following places:

General Headquarters - at Chaumont,
Hqrs. First Army - Souilly,
Hqrs. Second Army - Toul.

5. It is very probable that the following monuments will be erected:

Monument in England to commemorate the Naval operations of the American forces in the vicinity during the war;

Monument at Brest, France, to commemorate the operations of the Naval forces of the United States on the continent of Europe during the war;

A combined Army-Navy memorial at Rome, Italy, to commemorate the actions of these forces in Italy during the war;

Monuments of modest design at Corfu, Greece, Ponta Delgada and Gibraltar, to commemorate the actions of the Naval forces at these places during the war.

6. It will be necessary to obtain the design for a Star of David. This assumes that the design for the cross has already been approved.

In explaining the Memorandum, Senator Reed said, "We have recommended one chapel for each cemetery--a memorial chapel in which visitors could rest and into which could be put the records of the men who were buried there, and an account of the operations of the vicinity to tell the story of

the cemetery. It was not thought well to place too many memorials outside, as it would give the location the appearance of a stone mason's back yard. Tablets could be erected within the chapel to commemorate events and be at the same time an ornament. The number of visitors is increasing each year so that provision ought to be made for them beyond a little care-taker's place and a little rest room.

"We have also recommended walls for each cemetery. Only one is walled in, namely at Brookwood. A wall seems to be necessary for the privacy that a cemetery ought to have and to keep out stray animals. It ought not to be exposed to an open field. Appropriations are being asked for walls for the other seven cemeteries.

"Then we took action on the question of a grave marker. We found that the Quartermaster General had adopted a marker that looked to us like a milestone. The American Battle Monuments Commission favors the cross, replacing the wooden ones. We found that we can have a stone marker in the form of a cross made in one piece and it looks so much better than the milestone type,-better than the English marker, which is very large. We were unanimous in deciding for the cross and the Secretary of War has agreed upon that. There is a sample marble cross in General Pershing's office. It seems to us the dimensions are very good, varying only in thickness from the present wooden cross, and it is my desire that the members of the Commission of Fine Arts see it today".

Mr. Medary inquired as to what would be done with the Star of David and Senator Reed said"It will be cut just as the cross. During the war the British had in places put five bodies in one grave, which placed the stones very close together and gave the appearance of a stone wall. This will not

occur in the American cemeteries." Mr. Greenleaf advised that the original plans of the American cemeteries allowed for double width between the graves.

Mr. Moore said, "As for the grave-stones, when the Commission of Fine Arts and the War Department began on this matter, the small headstone was agreed upon and it is now being used for both officers and men in the World War section at Arlington. The three elements--the small headstone, green grass, and trees, typical of the most beautiful of that part of Arlington known as the Civil War section, were emphasized in planning for the American Cemeteries in Europe. When the question of using the cross came up, it was shown that the marble cross would cost much more than the small stone and be far less durable than the stone marker. The discussion as to the symbol of the cross and the Star of David was settled by cutting a medallion of each of those symbols on the upper part of the headstone. At the present time the number of burials at Arlington is about 60 a month, and at the request of the War Department the Commission of Fine Arts has prepared a plan looking to the enlargement of Arlington. There are now regulations in force for the uniform height and type of stone in Arlington".

Senator Reed thought the American Battle Monuments Commission agreed with the Commission of Fine Arts so far as appearance of the cemeteries is concerned, only that the Battle Monuments Commission has decided upon using the cross and this is because of the numerous requests from organizations and individuals that the cross be retained. The question of size of the cross has not been settled and is to be determined in consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts. Senator Reed was glad to hear that no more floating angels would be permitted in Arlington, and neither, he said, would they be permitted in the American cemeteries abroad.

As to planting flowers about the cemeteries, Senator Reed advised that this has not been favored by their Commission as to have flowers appear on graves would have the tendency to create rivalry. Mr. Moore said the Commission of Fine Arts discouraged the planting of flowers in Arlington, since it is impossible to find a man who can plant both flowers and trees. Mr. Mowbray stated that it is the trees that will make the cemeteries impressive in after years. There is no finer section in Arlington than the one with the great trees and the light flickering through them, and they do not require the daily care of a garden.

Mr. Moore said the Commission adopted the military cemetery, and just as in the Civil War Section at Arlington, so at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and other places, the trees are now full grown, giving those cemeteries a beautiful appearance. Senator Reed admitted this, saying "I went through Gettysburg a month ago and noted the great difference in appearance between that part of the cemetery which has the small headstones and trees and that part where there are monuments of all shapes and sizes." Mr. Ayres said the more obvious the stones are the more riotous they become.

Mr. Greenleaf stated that three years ago when the question of preparing the plans for the American Cemeteries was taken up by the Commission, he talked with Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the representative landscape garden firms of the country, who said that the national cemeteries should have nothing except flat stones. Senator Reed replied that we can appreciate such a thing in Lady Astor's private cemetery, because there they are in harmony with the beauty of the surroundings, but that he was certain there would be great objection to using them in the permanent American cemeteries.

Mr. Greenleaf explained to Senator Reed what the members of the Commission

of Fine Arts had in mind concerning the erection of monuments at the time the plans for the cemeteries were prepared--that it was the desire to keep all monuments out of the cemeteries except a few national memorials. It was found that a monument had been erected at Cantigny;and a Doughboy at Suresnes, for which a new place was selected in that cemetery. The architecture proposed for the cemeteries was carefuly designed under the supervision of Mr. William Mitchell Kendall, of McKim, Mead and White, one of the greatest architectural firms of this country. What Mr. Kendall has suggested architecturally the Commission of Fine Arts desire retained in these cemeteries--fitness, scale and design were considered by Mr. Kendall with a great deal of care and interest. The fine expression which these cemeteries are intended to convey should not give way to the common-place.

Senator Reed replied that their reason for coming personally to the Commission of Fine Arts was to secure advice as to continuing the work along the best lines.

Mr. Medary said what is placed in those cemeteries shoudd reflect the best of the United States, and in this respect he thought the State of Pennsylvania had made a good beginning in selecting one of the best architects of the country to prepare the designs for their World War memorials in France, which the Commission has just approved. It is a question at the very beginning of putting the design in the hands of a man who understands beauty, proportions, distinction, and quality. What we run against is a draftsman in the War Department incapable of doing a big thing. It is all summed up as Mr. Greenleaf has said, at the bottom of all is the duty of a committee to get the best designer and there will be no further trouble.

Senator Reed replied'The American Battle Monuments Commission has agreed

as to that. We have passed a resolution that there shall be in each cemetery a suitable memorial chapel of varying size and in harmony with the surroundings and of style and type to be determined after competition or submission of designs--all to be done as might be outlined by the Commission of Fine Arts. In other words in matters of art, taste, and design, we submit the question to you."

Mr. Medary said the best results cannot be obtained if there is to be a competition, as it scatters the effort of an architect, and in this instance in a most important work, and that a direct selection of an architect should be made in order that he may feel the responsibility placed upon him. Major Price replied that the question of procedure in this matter the American Battle Monuments Commission has left with a subcommittee consisting of General Pershing, Senator Reed, and himself, and that they are willing to be guided by the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter.

Mr. Moore called attention to what the Commission of Fine Arts did in the case of the Harding Memorial,--recommending three architects equally competent, but unfortunately the Harding Memorial Association insisted on adding a fourth architect and having a competition, so that the direct selection of an architect from the three recommended was not made.

II. As to the commemorative monuments to be erected, Senator Reed said there were three great operations in which the Americans took part--

The Meuse--Argonne oppration at Montfaucon;
The St. Mihiel operation at Hattonchatel;
The Aisne-Marne operation at Chateau Thierry.

The American Battle Monuments Commission has recommended that commemorative monuments shall be erected by the United States Government at each of these three places. In addition there is to be a national monument to commemorate the Service of Supply, at Tours; and one for the Sector Occupation at Nancy.

Senator Reed said they have no ideas as to the type of these memorials; all they want is to do the suitable thing in the finest way. Mr. Medary advised placing the work in the hands of a good designer and sending him abroad to the battlefield area to fill himself with the atmosphere of the place and receive inspiration from it for his design; "Paul Cret fought in France during the War and one can see that it has helped him in the design. He is one of the great architects of the country and has taught for years at the University of Pennsylvania, where largely through him has been developed one of the leading architectural schools in this country". Senator Reed said his desire is that the work shall be done by competent men, whose work meets with the approval of the Fine Arts Commission, and that he himself would not tolerate mediocrity of design in a matter of this importance.

III. The following historical monuments of similar design are to be erected at the following places:

Audenarde	Vesle River
Ypres	South of Soissons
Bony	Somme Py
LeCatelet	Between Consenvoye and Wavrille
Amiens	Southeast of Reims
Juvigny	South of Sedan.

Senator Reed said that a number of Divisions and regiments had erected temporary monuments at the time the boys were preparing to leave the battle ground--the Third Division at Chateau Thierry, the Second Division at Belleau Wood, the First Division at Cantigny; but that these would doubtless give way in time to the finer monuments.

As to buildings which have been erected, Senator Reed said that the impression conveyed in the advice given that the buildings conform to the landscape in the immediate vicinity was such as indicated that the buildings

should be similar to those in the immediate neighborhood. Mr. Moore said it was the desire of the Commission of Fine Arts that the buildings be in harmony with the architecture of the country and of the locality--in other words the Commission of Fine Arts did not think it was appropriate to erect an American type of building amidst those representing French architecture.

IV. Bronze tablets are to be erected at the following places:

General Headquarters - at Chaumont,
Headquarters First Army - Souilly,
Headquarters Second Army - Toul.

Mr. Moore said the Commission of Fine Arts has had several World War Memorial tablets prepared under their supervision and has found in this also it is important to place them in the hands of a good designer. Mr. Ayres raised the question as to whether or not an inlaid marble or stone tablet would be better than a bronze tablet, especially on the outer walls of a building. Mr. Medary advised that the Commission has just seen what bronze will do to marble, at the entrance of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

V. Senator Reed said, Now in addition it is very probable that the following monuments will be erected to commemorate Naval operations, since the Navy wants to share with the Army 50-50:

Monument in England to commemorate the Naval operations of the American forces in the vicinity during the war;
Monument at Brest, France, to commemorate the operations of the Naval forces of the United States on the continent of Europe during the war;
A combined Army-Navy memorial at Rome, Italy, to commemorate the actions of these forces in Italy during the war;
Monuments of modest design at Corfu, Greece, Ponta Delgada, and Gibraltar, to commemorate the actions of the Naval forces at these places during the war.

The Navy Department wants 15 monuments and the American Battle Monuments Commission wants to cut this down to 3 main ones and with perhaps 3 subordinate ones.

As to appropriations available, Major Price said that the American Battle Monuments Commission has an appropriation of $50,000 to prepare designs and specifications and that they propose to ask an additional fund for chapels, walls, monuments, tablets, etc.

Mr. Moore advised that the Commission of Fine Arts had the plans well prepared for roads, walks and drives, but that here in the War Department under Assistant Secretary of War Wainwright some of the original plans were cut so as to disfigure them greatly, especially at Bony and Belleau Wood. Land which was included in the plans to give the cemeteries a good setting was arbitrarily cut off, but some of it was afterwards restored to the plans. In the case of Belleau Wood, the Memorial Association bought the hill where the fighting took place by private subscription, and Secretary of War Weeks gave $1,000 to help purchase it.

Senator Reed called attention to the importance of bringing no more bodies from France; that whereas originally Romagne had 23,000 it now has only 14,000 graves; and the cemeteries are being developed with the understanding that no more bodies will be brought to America. Senator Reed and the Commission of Fine Arts commended the work which had been accomplished by Major Henry L. Green, U.S.A., in the construction work of the cemeteries.

VI. It will be necessary to obtain the design for a Star of David. Senator Reed said a marble cross, a copy of the wooden cross in France, is in General Pershing's office, and the American Battle Monuments Commission desire to adopt it for the American Cemteries in Europe.

The Commission accompanied Senator Reed and Major Price to General Pershing's office in the State, War and Navy building to see this cross and inspected it. The beautiful white marble gave a fine impression, but the

Commission knew that, exposed to the weather, the marble cross would soon disintegrate. The Commission again recommended the use of a headstone, similar to those in use in the World War Section in Arlington; but that if the cross is to be used abroad, it should be redesigned so as to be in proper proportions, and be made smaller.

Senator Reed expressed his appreciation of this conference with the members of the Commission, and said he would inform the American Battle Monuments Commission of the recommendations made.

The erection of national monuments in Europe will be made the subject of a special report by the Commission of Fine Arts to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

8. UNITED STATES FLAG STANDARDIZATION: Mr. R. M. Hudson, Department of Commerce, Lieut. G. W. Nelson, United States Navy, Capt. H. D. Vigor, Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, and Mr. F. R. McGowan, Bureau of Standards,-representatives of the Flag Standardization Committee of the Department of Commerce, and Col. James A. Moss, U. S. A. (Retired), Secretary of the United States Flag Association, were in conference with the Commission to consider a flag made by the New York Yard for the Navy Department, according to the proposed new proportions and in improved colors of red and blue, as had been recommended by Mr. Mowbray, by letter of August 31,1924, as follows:

> "----Orange (yellow) and blue are the strongest expression of complimentary colors when used together; hence a red tending towards orange is in a greater degree complimentary to blue, than one verging towards a violet, which in turn goes back to blue.
>
> "At the present moment, when a general revision of the flag is taking place, it would seem a pity that we should disregard a basic principle in the important elements of its color. I therefore suggest that a modification of the two colors, i.e., red and blue, be tried and I have prepared samples of them for that purpose.
>
> "My belief is that the flag as a whole will be greatly improved in color and that these colors will wear longer, that is, retain their brilliancy longer, than those used at present.

"I believe also that the visibility of the colors--individually and collectively, will be greatly increased under conditions of distance, cloudiness, and haze.

It is noticeable that when the present flag is in shadow, the stripes of red become heavy and opaque. The proposed red in both light and shadow will have a greater luminosity and in the play of sun and breeze a more liquid quality.

The present blue is of such a quality owing to its tendency towards violet that, in contrast with blue in the sky, it becomes relatively black. This blue may be made more intense and lighter without hurting it as a background for the stars."

The flag which was inspected had been made in accordance with the proposed new proportions, and measured 21 feet long, 13 feet wide; union 7 x 9 feet; star circle diameter 3/4 the width of the stripe, the stars arranged alternately.

The Commission and the representatives of the Flag Standardization Committee recognized a great improvement in the colors of this flag, as compared with the colors now in use; the new colors were such as gave life and brilliancy to the flag. It was shown that the blue of the flag used at present is almost black. The red did not altogether suit Mr. Mowbray and he thought an improvement could be made; also that the union could be improved by a slight adjustment of the stars.

Members of the Flag Standardization Committee thought that the colors in this "sample" flag would fade more quickly than they do at present. Mr. McGowan offered to have a color test made in the Bureau of Standards. Mr. Mowbray said the two colors of red and blue are going to work on each other. Colonel Moss suggested getting a report from the French Government on the color qualities of their flags, through the American Embassy in France, since, he said, European Governments have experts in each color in their employ, whereas in this country one establishment aims to pass on all colors. The suggestion of Colonel Moss was commended and he said he would ask for the information at once.

The Commission felt that it was a great improvement in the flag to alternate the stars, as shown in the flag before them. Colonel Moss was not in favor of changing the arrangement of the stars, since he said it would make millions of flags now in use obsolete; he regarded the practical considerations in connection with the subject more important than the purely artistic. He said there is a good reason for shortening the length of the flag, since at the present time it too often curls up on a flagpole. The Commission felt that as the question had come to them for study and advice, they were justified in determining upon the best possible improvements in the United States flag.

An inspection trip to test the flag submitted on the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater flagpole was made on Saturday morning, December 6th. The breeze was not sufficiently strong to fly the flag and thereupon the "sample" flag and the flag now flown from the flagpole were held alongside each other from the side of the Amphitheater. A marked contrast between the two flags was noted, and it was generally agreed that the colors of red and blue used in the "sample" flag were decidedly superior than those of the flag now in use.

It was decided to await the report from France on the subject of colors, and to consider the subject further at the next meeting of the Commission. Mr. Mowbray submitted a report covering his views with reference to the inspection, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes (Exhibit B).

9. FLAGPOLES FOR THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE: Under date of November 5, 1924, the following letter was received from Major J. Franklin Bell, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, requesting advice as to a plan of patriotic organizations to erect flagpoles on the Francis Scott Key Bridge:

> "The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have been approached by a representative of a committee of patriotic societies who desire to establish a memorial flagpole or poles on one or both approaches to the Key Bridge. The societies represented are: The Grand

Army of the Republic, The Woman's Relief Corps, The Spanish War Veterans, The Sons of Veterans, The World War Veterans, The Daughters of Veterans.

"The Commissioners would be very pleased to receive the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to what might be considered a suitable treatment for such a memorial. If the suggested flag pole or poles are deemed appropriate, it is believed that preliminary points requiring special determination at this time would be the proper number of poles, appropriate size, and suitable location. A suggestion was offered by the representative of the societies that four small poles might be erected, one at each end of each side rail of the bridge, or one large pole might be installed at some selected location on the bridge or its north approach. It is understood that a total expenditure of approximately a thousand dollars is contemplated by the combined societies, though possibly additional funds might be raised for the memorial."

A report was sent to the District Commissioners (Exhibit C), advising that only a flagpole monumental in character should ever be permitted at the bridge.

On November 22d Mr. John A. Reid, 1126 Lamont Street, of this city, representing the patriotic organizations above mentioned, submitted a supplemental letter suggesting the erection of iron flagpoles on the bridge, temporarily, until the required fund for a monumental flagpole could be secured.

The Commission reaffirmed the views set forth in the latter of November 7th to the District Commissioners, and disapproved the suggested plan to erect any flagpole of a temporary nature on or near the bridge. At the same time the Commission felt that until the approaches to the bridge are completed it would be best to erect no flagpole near the bridge.

The Commission decided that further communications on the subject should be submitted through the District Commissioners (Exhibit C-1).

10. PARKING VIADUCT: In accordance with the request of Senator Kenneth McKellar, Mr. C. L. Riker, of Washington, D. C., was granted a Hearing with reference to his plan for a Parking Viaduct--a structure 65 feet in height, with 4 decks, which is to span Pennsylvania Avenue and give storage space for

8,000 automobiles; or which could be erected at other locations in Washington. Mr. Riker said several members of Congress are interested in the project; also members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Washington, and that it is expected a bill will be introduced for it in a few days. Mr. Riker submitted a copy of a letter addressed to District Commissioner Rudolph, which was read by the Chairman, outlining the plan. Mr. Riker also submitted a sketch to illustrate his plan for this proposed viaduct. Mr. Riker said there would be spans at intervals of 130 feet, with approaches to the viaduct from the street where they might be thought necessary.

The Commission felt that the structure would shut out the light from the streets and that it would be impracticable to adopt it. (Commissioner Rudolph referred the letter mentioned above on Dec.11,1924, and he was informed accordingly.)

11. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: The Commission gave consideration to an (Exhibit D) article which appeared in the Literary Digest of September 27, 1924, concerning a campaign of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association in the effort to get funds for the monument designed, showing sea gulls. It was recalled that the Commission was on record as not having approved that design; that Senator Pepper, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, had been advised to that effect. It was also recalled that Mr. Harvey W. Corbett, architect of the memorial, had promised last spring to inform the Commission when a further study of the design would be ready for inspection by the members, but that nothing had been heard from him since that time. The Commission stated that they desired to place themselves on record again at this time setting forth their disapproval of the design and asking Senator Pepper for a conference on the subject, if possible at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Medary suggested that Senator Pepper be advised as to the kind of a memorial that ought to be erected at the proposed site at the south end of

East Potomac Park, overlooking the river.

12. MEDAL BY I. GROSSMAN: Under date of October 22, 1924, the Commission received the following letter from the Department of State, requesting advice as to a sketch submitted by Mr. I. Crossman, of New York City, for a medal which he proposes to present to the United States, as follows:

> "I beg to enclose for an expression of your views as to its artistic value and accuracy a sketch for a gold medal which Mr. I. Grossman, a native of Hungary and a manufacturing jeweler of New York City, desires to present to this Government as an expression of his sentiment for his adopted country. A copy of Mr. Grossman's letter which accompanied this sketch is also inclosed."

The matter was referred to Mr. Fraser and the Commission adopted his recommendations as those of the Commission (Exhibit E).

13. INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK MEDAL: The Chairman called attention to a design submitted in October by the Department of Agriculture for medals to be given at the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago in December of this year; that Congress had appropriated $1,000 with which it was proposed to make 876 medals; that the matter was taken up with Mr. Fraser, who secured a bid from the Medallic Art Company as follows:

November 11, 1924.

> "Confirming our telephone conversation of this morning we are pleased to advise that we will undertake to furnish the various medals made in the size of the U. S. Half Dollar as follows:
>
> 42 Ten Karat gold medals $9.00 each
> 179 Fine silver medals 90¢ each;
> 655 Bronze Medals 40¢ each.
>
> These medals will be enclosed in suitable two piece cardboard boxes laid in cotton. They will be given the same care and attention as all of our work and the usual artistic hand finish of which you are well acquainted.
>
> We understand that each medal is to be engraved and for this work we would make a charge of 3-½¢ per letter. This is the only fair basis on which to estimate engraving. In this way you pay for just what you get. An estimated total cost on engraving can be added to the price of each medal but on this plan it is necessary to figure on the largest possible inscription for each and every medal which works to the detriment of the purchaser.

"Our charge for a set of obverse and reverse dies the size of the half dollar will be $90. This price on the dies is made with the understanding that the models will be furnished us in a practical size for reproduction without the necessity of intermediate reduction.
Medallic Art Company".

As it was shown that the $1,000 would not be adequate even for the casting of the medals, Mr. Moore stated the Department of Agriculture called the matter to the attention of President Coolidge, who called Mr. Moore for a conference on the subject. The President decided to ask Congress for an additional $1,000 and advised that in the meantime certificates could be awarded the participants.

Within the past few days, Mr. Moore said, the Department of Agriculture asked advice as to the increased cost involved in increasing the size of the medal 1/4 of an inch and the Medallic Art Company advised that the--

"price of gold medals will have to be increased $5.00 each; the silver medals 55 cents; and the bronze medals 10 cents; increased cost of dies will be $25.00."

14. MEDAL FOR THE TEXAS CAVALRY: Under date of October 10, 1924, the following letter was received from the Adjutant General of the War Department, submitting a design for a Texas Cavalry Medal:

"In accordance with the policy of the War Department of consulting with the Commission of Fine Arts in the preparation of the design of medals and decorations, the colored drawing marked "Inclosure 3" herewith, for the Texas Cavalry Medal is submitted for approval.
It is requested that the inclosures herewith be returned".

The War Department was under the impression that the sum of $5,000 had been appropriated, by the Act approved April 16, 1924, and the matter was thereupon taken up with Mr. Fraser and his recommendations were embodied in a report to the War Department on the subject (Exhibit F), approving the composition, but recommending that the work be placed in the hands of a competent artist. It is understood that this will be done, but officials

of the War Department have noted on re-reading the Act that Congress has simply authorized $5,000 to be appropriated, so that further action in the matter will for a time have to be delayed.

15. STATUE OF SERENITY: Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect, advised that in preparing the pedestal for the statue of Serenity, at the request of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, it was noted that the base of the statue is not square, causing difficulty in designing the pedestal. The Commission and Mr. Peaslee made a trip of inspection to see the statue, and after a conference it was thought best to design the pedestal in the form of a trapezoid, which would obviate the incongruity created by the irregular base of the statue.

16. AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BUILDING PLANS: Chancellor Lucius C. Clark, of the American University, and Col. P. M. Anderson, their consulting engineer, appeared before the Commission with a Ground Plan for proposed buildings for the American University, at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N.W. (near the Washington Cathedral). Chancellor Clark stated that about 20 years ago the American University built a History Building of white marble, a building of the classical type, and that since then two additional buildings, one of which is temporary, have been erected there; also that the University is occupying two buildings at 19th & F Streets for graduate work. The American University now desires to create a College of Liberal Arts and plan for the future development of the University.

The Commission felt that the plan required careful study as to arrangement of the buildings; that in arranging the buildings consideration should be given to the topography of the grounds. An inspection of the grounds was contemplated, but was postponed until the next meeting, due to urgent matters requiring

the immediate attention of the Commission.

17. FILTRATION PLANT DESIGNS: The Commission visited the Office of Major J. A. O'Connor, Engineer in Charge of Washington work, to inspect working drawings for the Filtration Plant, to be erected along the Conduit Road, near the District Line. Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary carefully examined the plans and recommended changes which were explained to Major O'Connor and his architect. The indirect lighting proposed in the plans was disapproved; and a uniform style of window was recommended.

18. HOME FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED: The Commission made a trip of inspection to the proposed site for the Home of the Feeble Minded, of the District of Columbia, to be erected near Camp Meade, Maryland, in company with District Engineer Commissioner Lieut. Col. J. Franklin Bell, Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, Mr. John Joy Edson, and Mr. W. T. Galliher, of the city. The District Commissioners having bought a farm of 827 acres at the place, they desired advice as to the layout of the grounds and the buildings.

Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary visited the site proposed for the buildings with Mr. Harris and it was regarded as satisfactory. The plans had heretofore been brought to the attention of the Commission by Mr. Harris. Colonel Bell and Mr. Greenleaf made a trip around the farm,- its accessibility to the railroad was noted, and on the whole the place was thought suitable for the proposed institution. The Commission endorsed the suggestion of Colonel Bell that the main entrance to the grounds should be at the south, rather than at the point on the north side of the farm, as originally planned.

19. NEW BATHING BEACH ALONG THE TIDAL BASIN: Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following letter, dated December 5, 1924, with plans for a Colored Bathing Beach along

the Tidal Basin:

> "I inclose herewith some studies of the proposed bathing beach for the colored people to be erected on the northwest shore of the Tidal Basin, in accordance with the provisions of the second deficiency act which was enacted by Congress yesterday.
>
> "In view of the fact that this appropriation runs for only the current fiscal year, it is urgent that construction of this building be entered upon at once. I would, therefore, be glad to have the matter considered by the Commission at its session tomorrow, if possible".

The legislation pertaining to this bathing beach (Public No.292, 68th Congress, page 7, approved December 5, 1924) reads as follows:

> "For construction and development work in Potomac Park on the west shore of the Tidal Basin to provide public bathing facilities, and for the maintenance thereof, $50,000, to remain available until June 30, 1925: PROVIDED, That the unexpended balance of the appropriation of $25,000 contained in the District of Columbia appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1923 for the construction of a bathing beach and bathhouse for the colored population of the city, continued and made available during the fiscal year 1924, by the District of Columbia appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1924, is further continued and made available during the fiscal year 1925 for the construction and maintenance of said bathing beach and bathhouse."

The Commission inspected the plans, and after consideration and study disapproved them. The Commission also decidedly disfavored the erection of the proposed bath house on the west shore of the Tidal Basin. The criticisms and recommendations of the Commission on the subject were embodied in a report to Colonel Sherrill (Exhibit G).

The Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th, after inspecting the District reservation near Camp Meade.

RESOLVED,

That in view of the absence of the Secretary in Europe and the Mediterranean Countries during the period from aboutJanuary 26 to April 11, 1925, he is permitted to employ a deputy at $150 a month during such period. Also that 30 days with pay shall be granted the Secretary of the period mentioned, as allowed by law.

C O P Y

December 8, 1924.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on December 6, 1924, considered the sketches and plans prepared by Thomas H. Atherton, Jr., and Paul P. Cret, submitted with your letter of December 2, for four World War Memorials to be erected in France by the State of Pennsylvania. The Commission approve the plans and desire to express their hearty admiration of them.

The designs are herewith returned to you.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The American Battle Monuments Commission,

State, War and Navy Building,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

December 10, 1924.

Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

In modifying the colors of the flag two objects were sought. First, harmonious tones that would satisfy the aesthetic eye. Second, to increase the carrying power of these colors.

Samples of both red and blue were prepared. The red chosen was a red verging on the orange and known in the arts as Chinese Vermillion. The blue was lighter and contained less purple than the one in present use.

A sample flag containing all the modifications suggested by the Commission, such as proportions and colors, was made by the Navy Department, and submitted for trial on December 6th. When hung side by side, it was manifest to those present that in harmony of color and brilliancy the new model was superior in a marked degree to the old.

The element of orange in the red and the lighter and more vivid blue produce a more perfect complimentary condition than can be expected from the combination of any red verging toward violet, or a blue containing purple. In other words the reaction of one color to the other is greatly increased. It follows from this that the carrying power of each is also increased.

It has been suggested that the lighter blues are less permanent. This is open to doubt. The French use them in their flags successfully and if they can obtain a satisfactory light blue surely we can for as an important an end as the flag of the Nation.

Vermillion is one of the most durable of colors. It is to be noted that no colors are permanent under all conditions. The blue of the present flag is not a true blue and is never, new or old, a desirable blue.

The results of the trial at Arlington impress me as very satisfactory and conclusively proving that a much more beautiful and efficient flag may be obtained.

Yours truly,

H. Siddons Mowbray

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

November 7, 1924.

My dear Major Bell:

I have received your letter of November 5th.

The sentiment which prompts the flying of the United States flag at one or both ends of the Key Bridge is one to excite sympathy. I have recently been through two years of a flagpole episode, which is not yet finished. So I write with some knowledge of what the erection of flagpoles means. The new flagpole near the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington cost $4500. It is a steel pole, 80 feet in height, with a very simple marble base. The flagpoles at the Union Station cost about $7,000 each. If flagpoles shall be erected at the Key Bridge they should be of high character and monumental in the true sense of the word. I think they should cost not less than $10,000 each. This is much more than is contemplated, I believe.

The question of adequate space, particularly at the District of Columbia end of the Key Bridge, is a serious one. Some day, let us hope, there will be a plaza entrance to the bridge and when that comes nothing could be more fitting as a central decoration than such flagpoles as the Venetians have placed in front of St. Mark's, something really stunning. At present, however, there is great congestion at that end of the bridge, nor do I see an opportunity to place a flagpole at the Rosslyn end where the street cars take up the entire plaza. Such are the practical considerations in regard to the proposal stated in your letter. I know these considerations will appeal to you as an administrator quite as strongly as they appeal to the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major J. F. Bell,

Engineer Commissioner of the
District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

December 8, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 22, in regard to the erection of temporary flagpoles on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, has been received.

This matter was brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who have jurisdiction over the bridge, and a report was made to them on November 7, 1924.

Should the Commissioners refer any other questions to the Commission of Fine Arts, a prompt consideration will be given to the subject, but courtesy would seem to require that the communications come through the Commissioners.

Respectfully yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mr. John W. Reid,
1116 Lamont Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C-1

C O P Y

December 26, 1924.

Sir:

The Commission acknowledge the receipt from you of a letter from Mr. C. L. Riker in regard to a proposed Parking Viaduct.

Mr. Riker appeared before the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 5, 1924, at the request of Senator Kenneth McKellar and explained his plan. The Commission see grave objections to the obstruction of Pennsylvania Avenue with any over-head structure.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Cuno H. Rudolph, President,

Board of Commissioners of the
District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D.

120 Franklin Street
New York

Washington, D. C.

R. F. D. 1
East Falls Church, Va.

Carroll Livingston Riker

Consulting. Designing, Maritime, Mechanical Engineer

Franklin 3585
New York

Lenox 6011

810-F-2
Falls Church, Va.

December 3rd
1 9 2 4

Hon. Cuno H. Rudolph
President of the Board of District Commissioners,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

I present herewith an outline with map and sketches giving description of a plan of relief for the street congestion now occuring in some parts of Washington.

It would reduce the consequent delay, danger, and loss incurred by automobiles, pedestrians, and all business establishments in such congested areas, and to all elsewhere in and out of the District who are affected by such congestion.

My plan would also permit of the movement of automobiles through the present congested areas and across the city at five times the present permissible speed without the possibility of injuring any pedestrian.

As the private realities in these congested districts are covered with buildings of many floors so as to profitably utilize the great value of that real estate for the benefit of private individuals, I would also cover a part of the public highway in these districts with many floors so that the public realty may also be fully utilized for the benefit of the public.

My plan for Washington provides a series of four floors, each about thirty-five feet wide, supported by steel beams, carried by a lattice girder on each side of the floor, they in turn being suspended from steel arches which would span the streets from curb to curb at intervals averaging about 130 feet. The first floor or road would be at about 85 feet above the street and would be used by passenger automobiles whose occupants had local business to transact or much time at their disposal, while the fourth floor or road would be used by those in haste as a speedway for automobiles passing thfough the city, or through a congested area of it while the second and third floors would be used for the day and night parking of passenger automobiles.

It would provide an unusual factor of safety against weight, wind, and corrosion; yet, from the side it would appear like a thing of lace against the sky.

I would suggest that the structure be painted white with golden trimmings and be profusely lit by electricity; I also believe that the whole structure would be an object of international interest and could be made a thing of beauty as well as service.

My parking viaduct overcomes the great objections to all elevated railroads or other street structures now in use. It is no more like them than a new thread lace window curtain is like a dirty curtain of canvas and from it there would be ~~absolutely~~ no noise.

It seems to me that this structure should initially extend from the Peace Monument to the Aquaduct Bridge, a distance of about three and one-half miles, which could be built for seven millions of dollars. The route which seems to me best suited is from the Peace Monument by way of Pennsylvania

Avenue to 13th Street; thence to "K" Street; thence to Pennsylvania Avenue; and from there to the bridge via Pennsylvania Avenue and "M" Street; or should the Georgetown residents along "M" Street object because of the present narrowness of that street, or to its being suitably widened, then through the continuation of "K" Street and the lower route to the bridge.

This structure would afford storage berths for more than 8,000 cars which considering compulsory storage or parkage and including day and night charges should average more than twenty-five cents per berth per day, or a revenue of more than $2,000 per day, say $600,000 per year. After deducting the interest on the cost of seven million dollars at 4% which would be $280,000 there would be a remaining revenue of $320,000 per annum - which after paying all operating expenses and repairs would also provide a sinking fund to ultimately repay the original cost.

If these figures should prove correct means could be easily provided for similar structures elsewhere, and some such routes are indicated on the map which accompanies this letter.

My plans provide that all automobiles must follow the right hand side of these roads and all road crossings are at different levels. No pedestrians would be permitted upon the viaduct except upon the storage floor. The street thereunder would be used for commercial vehicles and such passenger automobiles as have business upon it, thus permitting room for those who had such business to find room for their machines while so engaged.

It will be evident that the loss of life and injury to pedestrians which in my judgment should be one of the first considerations in this problem would be greatly reduced by such means and the movements of fire engines, ambulances and all commercial vehicles would be greatly facilitated by the removal of the revenueless parked cars of employes and others from the street and by those in movement which used the viaduct instead of the street.

The $7,000,000 cost referred to includes a commission of 2% on the cost of the work which I would expect for my services as supervising engineer, and no other charge would be made except upon the cost of other like structures, which would be upon the same basis.

The right to use all plans, or patent rights of which I am now or may become the owner, are included in such charge by me.

Payment therefor to be made $10,000 when Congress authorizes the work; this sum being to reimburse me for promotion, expenses, etc. and the balance as payments on account of the work is made.

It is but a few days since I was advised that the Fine Arts Commission would give my proposed parking viaduct a hearing on December 5th before the full commission, and the interim has been insufficient for me to secure a proper presentation of this matter to our commercial organizations, nevertheless several have promised to write you on my behalf.

Hoping that I may be given an opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your engineers in the interim, I am

Yours very truly,

Carroll Livingston Rudolph

C O P Y

December 8, 1924.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Your letter of October 22, submitting to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice as to its artistic merits, a sketch for a gold medal which Mr. I. Grossman, of New York City, desires to present to this Government, received the attention of the Commission at their meeting on December 6, 1924.

The Commission concurred in the criticisms of the sculptor member as to the sketch, which are as follows:

"The work is not of a medallic nature.

" The reverse is badly spaced and empty. The lettering would make a disagreeable form. That side is of no value.

" The obverse is pictorial in nature, rather than medallic. Most of the things used are in perspective. The spacing is bad, and altogether I should say it would be impossible to make a work of any consequence from the drawings".

The sketch is returned to you herewith.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. J. Butler Wright,

Assistant Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

November 13, 1924.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 10, 1924, submitting a design for a Texas Cavalry Medal, has had the careful consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Ever since the World War began the Commission has been giving special detailed study to the Army medals of the United States, with the object of placing them in the same class, so far as design and execution is concerned, with the best designed European medals. The main fault to be found with United States medals is that, while the emblems they contain and the ideas they are intended to express have arisen out of the services the medals commemorate, the execution of these medals has been very bad indeed. Usually the work has been given to some silver-smith and has been executed by men untrained in and ignorant of the art of the medalist. The lettering has been crude, the arrangement of the design has been faulty, with the result that the medal itself has a cheap appearance.

In the preparation of the medal commemorating the World War, these faults have been done away with, and the United States has a medal that will compare with the best medals that have yet been produced by the nations engaged in that War. Owing to the quantity of production, the individual medals are sometimes unequal and the finish has not always been successful. The latter defect, however, disappears with time and with use of the medal.

This explanation is made in order that you may understand the point of view of the Commission in regard to Army medals and the desire on the

part of the Commission to attain the highest standard of excellence in these insignia of the bravery of the American soldier.

The design of the medal for the Texas Cavalry is a case in point. The drawings submitted are in general not bad, that is to say, the ribbon holding the medals, the general shape, and possibly the attributes are acceptable. On the other hand, a trained medalist would produce a very much more beautifully executed and composed circle within the octagon. The one submitted seems trivial and uninteresting. It seems to the Commission too bad that our soldiers can not have the best medalist obtainable to do works of this order. If produced according to the drawings submitted, the medal will be just a very ordinary piece of bronze. In the hands of a competent medalist the design may be executed in such a way as to make the medal a work of art.

The Commission therefore recommend that the sum of $1500 be set aside by the War Department out of the appropriation made by Congress for producing the medals and that the work be placed in the hands of a competent medalist. Should the further services of the Commission be desired, they will be given with pleasure.

The drawings and correspondence in the case are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General Robert C. Davis,
The Adjutant General,
War Department.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

December 22, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, to whom the studies for a proposed bath house on the Tidal Basin were referred during the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on December 5, 1924, have considered the plans, and report as follows:

1. The Commission have been informed by physicians of standing and experience that the bathing beach already installed is a prolific source of ear trouble and other diseases; that the basin is too shallow and the flow of water through it is too limited to make it safe even for its present occupation. When the existing bathing beach was proposed it was with the understanding that the flow of water on that side between the intake and the outlet produced a sufficient current to carry off impurities. Such, however, has proved not to be the case. To place an additional beach on the opposite side of the basin where there is almost no change in the water, would be a menace to health and a continuing source of contagion.

It was understood when the bathing beach was placed along the basin that immediate steps would be taken to provide bathing facilities in connection with the recreation features in East Potomac Park; also that provision would be made along the Anacostia and along Water Street. If facilities were provided in all the places named the present inadequate bathing facilities would be better provided for. In none of the plans submitted to the Commission thus far have such facilities been shown.

2. The location of a bathing beach at the point specified, namely on the westerly side of the Tidal Basin, will necessitate the removal of such a number of the Japanese Cherry trees as virtually to destroy one of the most attractive features of Washington. These trees were a gift from the Mayor of Tokio to Mrs. Taft and from her to the Government. Those around the basin are perhaps the most attractive of the city, drawing many visitors to Washington at the time of their blossoming.

3. The location of a bathing beach at this spot will increase the congestion at the most congested point at the entrance to Potomac Parks. The flow of traffic through this narrow neck is already much greater than can be accommodated on Sundays and indeed on any fine day in summer.

4. The plans as drawn provide for only 1,000 lockers and will very soon call for such enlargements as already have been effected along the opposite beach, and should the entire area of the basin be taken up by both beaches, the space would be all too small to provide adequate facilities for a population of 500,000 people.

5. In place of so much expenditure to accomplish a result that must from the nature of things be merely temporary, the Commission of

Fine Arts suggest that during the present session of Congress legislation be sought to remove the bathing beaches from the Tidal Basin to another site, in East Potomac Park or along the water front.

6. The Commission call attention to the fact that no facilities are provided for sterilizing bathing suits, a feature insisted upon and carefully watched over in other cities.

The Commission seriously question the advisability of adding a dining room and kitchen. The arrangement proposed in the building and its architecture are such as to require a restudy of the plans.

For these several reasons the plans are returned to you herewith, without the approval of the Commission.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge of

Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT G.